

In South-East Asia, the species has previously been recorded in northern, central and eastern Myanmar (King *et al.* 1975) and in Viet Nam (Vo Quy 197?). This appears to be the first record for Thailand, although Boonsong Lekagul and Round (1991) considered that the species was a likely future addition to the list of Thai birds.

The authors wish to thank P. D Round for his comments on the first draft of this note.

REFERENCES

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Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*: a new species for Thailand

JOHN T. KNOWLER

Soon after dawn on the mornings of 18 and 19 February 1986, at the edge of evergreen forest surrounding the small marsh on the summit of Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai province, northern Thailand, David Clugston, John Mullins and I identified a Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*. Although previously unrecorded in Thailand, it has transpired that we were neither the first, nor the last, observers, to see this individual. The bird was originally found by Brian Field and others who saw it at the same site, again just after dawn, on 2 January. It remained in the area until at least 22 March, when it was seen by Phil Round and Kamol Kamolphalin.

The following description is compiled from my own combined field notes taken on 18 and 19 February. In size and shape the bird was obviously a grosbeak *Mycerobas*, appearing substantially larger than a Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, with a massive pale horn-colored bill. The head, wings and tail were wholly black except for yellow spots on the inner tertials. The breast, belly, under tail-coverts, rump, mantle and a broad collar around the lower neck were brilliant golden yellow, suffused orange on the collar. When the bird was perched, the collar was conspicuous and the yellow rump

was usually visible because the wings were held above it. The mantle was not normally visible on the perched bird, but became conspicuous in flight, as did the contrast between the mantle and the orange lower neck. We did not see that the thighs were yellow, which would conclusively rule out the Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *M. icteroides*, but this feature was noted by later observers and the orange on the collar is also a feature of *affinis* and not *icteroides*.

On both mornings the bird was first observed when it flew into the tops of the low trees on the edge of the marsh opposite the boardwalk. It then dropped into the bushes below the trees, where it was in the company of Common Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* and the occasional Dark-breasted Rosefinch *C. nipalensis*. On each occasion the bird was in view for approximately 30 minutes, but was not observed to feed or to drop to the ground. It did not call during our observations but B. Field (pers. comm.) stated that his attention was first attracted to it by its distinctive call.

I should like to thank Phil Round for his comments.

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Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*, a species new to Borneo and South-East Asia

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At about 16h30 on 4 October 1990 C.F.M. saw a grey, black and white bird fly low across a muddy stretch of a paddyfield onto a low bush growing on a bund about 200 m distant. It was at first reminiscent of Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*, but habitat, behaviour and jizz were wrong for that species. When viewed through a telescope down to 30 m it became obvious that it was a grey shrike *Lanius*. The bird was seen in flight on two occasions. It was larger than, and had a longer tail and a heavier bill than that of a Brown Shrike *L. cristatus*. There was a broad, black stripe running back from the eye; the crown and mantle were pale grey and the rump was white. The wings were black with a large white area, and the tail was black with much white on the outer feathers. The underparts were white, with a faint pink tinge on the breast and